

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the through consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 3-12, 14, 15 and 17-19 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks set forth hereinbelow.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-10 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Friday. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 includes a combination of elements and has been amended to recite that the supporting member includes an insertion hole for receiving the lamp unit and an accommodation portion adjacent to the insertion hole. Further, the accommodation portion has a shape corresponding to a shape of the voltage adjustment means such that said voltage adjusting means is disposed integrally within an the accommodation portion of the supporting member.

These features are supported at least by Figure 3 and the corresponding description in the specification. For example, Figure 3 illustrates the supporting member 10 including an insertion hole 17 for receiving the lamp unit 20 and an accommodation portion 32 adjacent to the insertion hole 17 in which the accommodation portion 32 has a shape corresponding to a shape of the voltage adjustment means 30 such that the voltage adjustment means 30 is disposed integrally within the accommodation portion 32 of the supporting member 10 (see also paragraph [00048], for example).

The Office Action indicates Friday teaches an adjustment means 25 disposed within an accommodation portion of a supporting member 11. However, as shown in Figures 3 and 4 of Friday, the voltage adjustment means 25 is merely a resistor 25 included in a relay 27. The alleged accommodation portion is not adjacent to an insertion hole for receiving a lamp unit and does not have a shape corresponding to a shape of the resistor 25 such that the resistor 25 is disposed integrally within the accommodation portion.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom patently defined over Friday.

Further, independent claim 7 includes a combination of elements and has been amended to recite that the blinker relay is directly attached to a vehicle body of the vehicle. This feature is supported at least by Figure 9 and paragraph [0078]. For example, Figure 9 illustrates the blinker relay 110 being directly attached to the vehicle body frame 135.

Regarding independent claim 7, the Office Action indicates Friday teaches a blinker relay 18 attached to a vehicle body of the frame via a lamp housing 11 which must be attached to the vehicle body which must be attached to the vehicle body frame. However, it is respectfully noted the blinker relay 18 is not directly attached to a vehicle body frame as in the present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claim 7 and each of the claims depending therefrom are also allowable.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 14-16 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Friday in view of Nishihashi et al. and Hsu. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 14 includes a combination of elements and has been amended to recite that in the bottom wall has a greater thickness relative to the circumferential wall of the lamp apparatus such that the light emitting diode is attached to the heat radiating member in the spaced relationship from the voltage adjustment means by a distance corresponding to the thickness of the bottom wall. These features are supported at least by Figure 11 and the corresponding description in the specification (see in particular paragraph [00085]). For example, Figure 11 illustrates the bottom wall 151 having a greater thickness relative to the circumferential wall 154 of the lamp apparatus such that the light emitting diodes 156 are attached to the heat radiating member 150 in the space relationship from the voltage adjustment means 155 by a distance corresponding to the thickness of the bottom wall 151.

The Office Action indicates Friday teach a bottom wall 13 having a greater thickness relative to a circumferential wall 15 of the lamp apparatus 10. However, it is respectfully noted Friday as well as Nishihashi et al and Hsu do not teach or suggest setting a thickness of the bottom wall such that the light emitting diode is attached to the heat radiating member in a spaced relationship from the voltage adjustment means by a distance corresponding to the thickness of the bottom wall. Rather, Friday merely teaches a resistor 25, but does not teach the placement of such resistor being separate from the light emitting diode. Nishihashi et al. and Hsu also do not teach or suggest these features.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claim 14 and each of the claims depending therefrom are also allowable.

Further, it is respectfully submitted the rejections of claims 5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatenable over Friday in view of Meggs et al., claims 6 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Friday, and claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Friday, Nishihashi, Hsu and Serizawa have also been overcome as the claims rejected therein are dependent claims and the additional noted references also do not teach or suggest the features recited in the corresponding independent claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

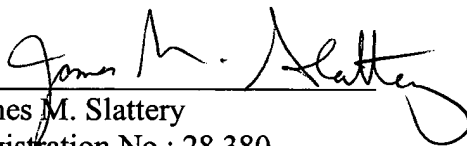
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone David A. Bilodeau at (703) 205-8072 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly extension of time fees.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

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